

"A GOOD MANY FELLOWS CAN GRASP AN IDEA WITHOUT BEING ABLE TO HOLD ON TO IT," SAYS SWAMPOODLE PETE

Griffmen Must Have Shortstop
Of Class or Sink Into Oblivion

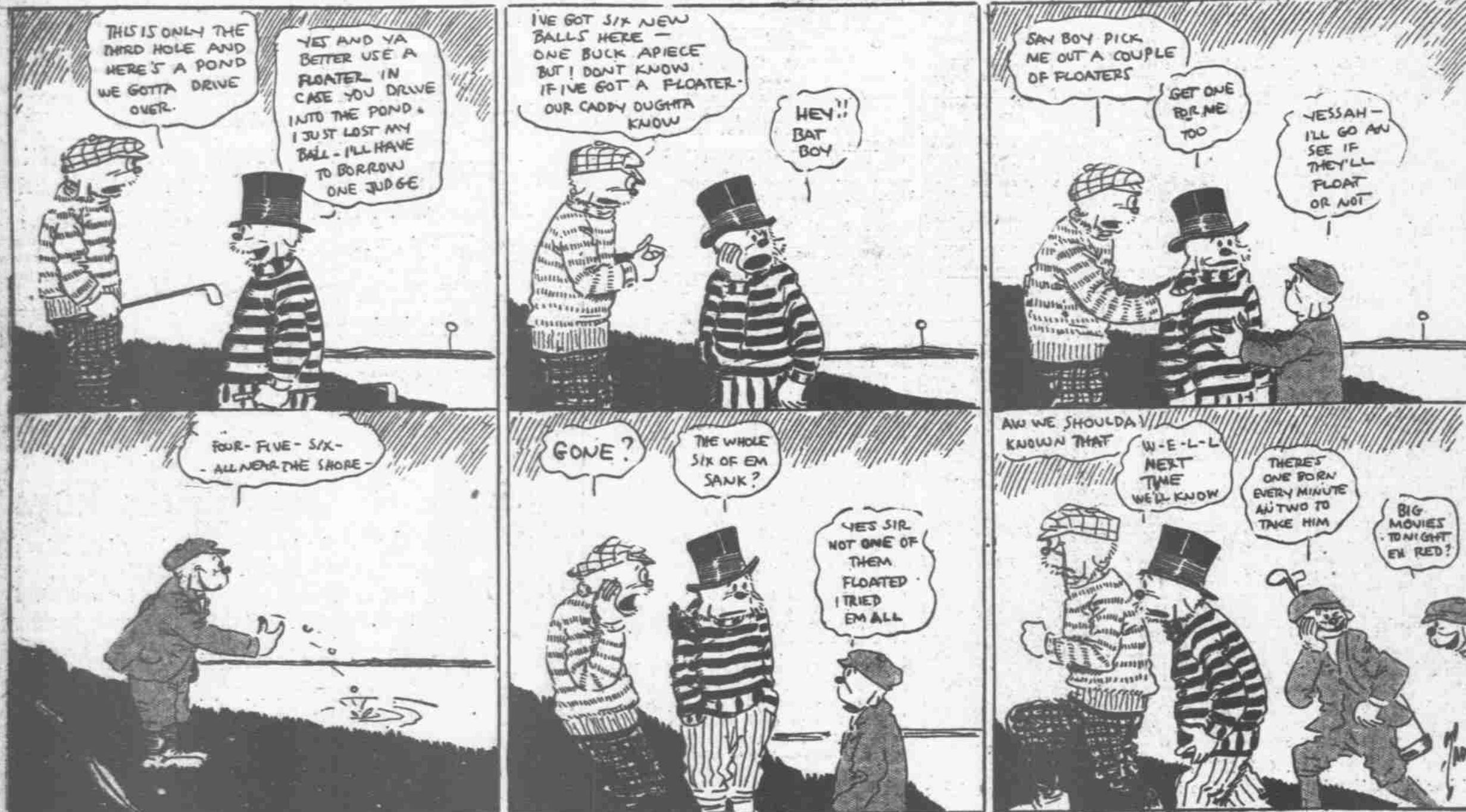
The Times' Complete Sport Page

"Uncle Nick" Alcock Leaves
For Augusta With Youngsters

The Next Time the Judge'll Know

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By TAD



GRIFFMEN MUST OBTAIN CAPABLE SHORTSTOP OR SEE RIVALS PASS THEM

By LOUIS A. DOUGHER.

With Johnny Lavan determined to get away from Washington, the Griffmen face the extremely difficult task of finding a capable shortstop between now and April 23. If they fail, they will start the 1919 campaign with a decided handicap. Therefore, what Manager Griffith is able to do with the candidates to be tried out at Augusta, Ga., and during the exhibition series which winds up at Georgia avenue becomes vastly more important than usual.

Of those to be tried by the Old Fox, Hal Janvrin and Hank Shanks have played the position in the American League. Janvrin, however, is confined to his home in Dorchester, Mass., with pneumonia following influenza. He may not report until the season is already under way. This leaves Shanks the lone player of major league experience for the job.

Manager Griffith wants to play Janvrin at second base. He believes the Bostonian better there than at any other place in the infield. He has speed and a good arm, but as a member of the Red Sox Janvrin's unsteadiness made him an unreliable regular for that job. It was only when he took Jack Barry's place at second in 1917 that he showed his real infield worth. It was on that showing that Manager Griffith built his hopes for the 1919 campaign. But that makes a second baseman of Janvrin, not a shortstop.

SHANKS STARTS TOO SLOWLY.

Shanks has played the shortfield for the Griff. That was in 1917. The Monacan, however, has one great weakness which handicaps him as a batsman. No other player on the club can show more brains running bases, though Hank is the slowest of the lot actually. As a fielder, he lets many drives get by him simply for the inability of getting in front of them.

Joe Leonard played third base in many games during the 1917 season, Foster going across to second base, but Leonard's poor hitting doomed him as a major leaguer. He is coming back for another trial. He will be played at short until he proves himself unable to hold down the job.

The other candidates for Lavan's shoes are all inexperienced. Few bank seriously on their performances. High class major league infielders are not turned out in a minute and so Brown, Davis, and Ellerby are not expected to provide the Griffmen's regular shortfield this season.

BRAINY SHORTSTOP IS ABSOLUTE NECESSITY.

A fast-moving, brainy, experienced shortstop is an absolute necessity on every team that hopes to play first division ball in the major leagues. It is impossible to pick out a winning ball club not blessed with a great shortstop. Scott, of the Red Sox; Fletcher, of the Giants; Chapman, of the Indians; Hollocher, of the Cubs, and Weaver, of the White Sox, prove this assertion. Their teams could not be the winners they are without them.

Johnny Lavan was not exactly brilliant last year, but his willingness to try for everything and his peppy style served to give the Griffmen one of the best infields in the American League. He leaves the team without a single player of equal ability. Manager Griffith's task, therefore, is to develop a shortstop out of the available material or loosen up his purse strings and buy one, if one is to be bought.

Not till a week from tomorrow will the Old Fox get his first peek at the newcomers on his roster, Brown, Davis, and Ellerby, three shortstops, and Zimmerman, who claims to be a second sacker. They are due to be on hand with the second section of the squad, reporting for work on March 24.

ALTRICK TAKES BATTERY MEN AWAY.

"Uncle Nick" Alcock, with the battery candidates, is due in Augusta, Ga., this afternoon. They departed last night from the Union Station, accompanied by the eagle-eyed war correspondents, each sporting a well-oiled and shined typewriter doomed to return battered and beaten. Those war correspondents are a hard-working lot of young men.

Tomorrow morning the initial workout of the season is booked for the hurlers. It will necessarily be of the lightest kind, mere warming up, followed by circuits of the ball park to strengthen the wind. This will be the program for the entire week, with a rest coming on Sunday.

Next week, with the arrival of the infielders and outfielders, each hungry for a crack at the old apple, the pitchers' real labors will begin. They will not end until the season opens on April 23. "Pitching to batters" becomes the spring's nightmare for the fingers.

THREE SOUTHPAWS ARE IN SQUAD.

"Uncle Nick" Alcock will have three southpaws to coddle at Augusta, "Moxie" Harper, Harry Thompson, and Bill Harrington. Harper is one of the league's leading twirlers and quite the best of the southpaws, judging from his record. He can take care of himself.

Thompson starred with the Toronto champions of 1917, coming to the Griff in the baseball draft of that year. Uncle Sam stepped in and put him in khaki, however, and he pitched out at Camp Meade all last summer.

Harrington, dug up by Joe Casey in Wakefield, Mass., has had a moment's experience in the Pacific Coast League, but has never been tried in the fires of the American League. Both Thompson and Harrington are experiments.

The right-handers will be Doc Ayers, Adrian Lynch, Ed Hovlik, and Hank Matteson. Ayers is well known here and needs no description. Lynch was "found" by Mique Martin and is green as grass. Hovlik looked promising last season and is young enough to develop. Matteson is an old-timer, valuable for relief duties, if nothing more.

They're All In the Spotlight Now



Here's Dr. Al H. Sharpe, who will be supreme in Yale athletics beginning next September. He has brought Cornell to the top in athletics and is expected to do the same for Yale, of which he is a graduate of the class of 1902.



Here's wee Tommy Leach, for years a star in the National League, first at third base for Pittsburgh and later as an outfielder with the Cubs. He is now a free agent and may never play again.



This is Vic Saier, about to come back to the major leagues, probably playing with the Brooklyn Dodgers. He broke his leg while with the Chicago Cubs and, after a year's absence, was sold to Pittsburgh. He refused to report last year, but has now signed up, only to be used in a sale.

CICOTTE TO REPORT IN FINE CONDITION

DETROIT, March 16.—Eddie Cicotte, the White Sox best bet in 1917, expects to report to his new manager, Kid Gleason, March 21, in the finest possible condition.

Several weeks ago Eddie severed his connection with the shipbuilding plant at Ecorse and has since started a hardening process by means of long walks and handball exercise in a local court.

His home is nearly ten miles from the city hall as the crow is supposed to fly and he completes this round trip at least once every day. There are days when he negotiates forty miles, so anxious is he to be in prime condition when the Chicago Sox pitchers congregate at Mineral Wells this month.

"I know I can finish with a higher average this year than I did in 1915, and furthermore I will if nothing untoward happens," says Cicotte.

"Anyway, the conditions are more favorable to high class baseball action this season than last and we will have to improve in our work to keep on the job. The state of uncertainty no longer exists and we have no more war excuses to present for our shortcomings. It is now a case of do or retire. We all realize that."

Cicotte is satisfied with his contract for the year, his salary being the same as called for in his 1918 binder.

HENLEY REGATTA BOOKED FOR JULY 3 IN ENGLAND

LONDON, March 16.—The Henley regatta will be held this year on July 4 and 5, with preliminary heats on July 3. Unusual interest is being manifested in this famous rowing event this year as a result of the ending of the war. There will be a special race on the program this year for "allied forces."

MEET IS POSTPONED.

As long as Sinclair, Tech swimming captain, is ill, the Tech tankmen will postpone their dual meets. Tech and Central were to splash last week, but Tech asked a postponement.

THREE SCHOOLS TO GO.

Technical, Western and Central will go to Baltimore on Saturday night for the Second Regiment games.

Baseball Briefs For You

President Jim Dunn, of the Cleveland Indians, made an exception of the Milwaukee club in refusing to book exhibition games this spring. Due to friendship for former Manager Rowland, of the White Sox, the Indian chief has scheduled two games with the Brewers at Evansville, Ind., where the Milwaukee team will do his training.

CHICAGO, March 16.—Rollie Zeider, veteran handy man, came to Chicago for a conference with Cub officials yesterday and departed for Auburn, Ind., to his garbage collecting business fully satisfied. Although the Cubs refused to say whether or not the utility man had signed, they intimated he will be on the Pasadena bound train Wednesday.

PITTSBURGH, Pa., March 16.—Charlie Deal, erstwhile Cub third baseman, today called his 1919 contract a "scrap of paper" and says he is through with the National League champions. Charlie prefers his daily labor in a steel mill to cavorting about the infield under the terms offered.

BOSTON, March 16.—The world's champions will leave New York by boat Tuesday, bound for Jacksonville, Fla., for they will do their spring training at Tampa, Fla., this year.

Comlie Mack believes in retrenching in order to meet the high cost of living and other expenses. He has traded or sold all his high salaried players and the Athletics will save expenses by doing their training at home. Mack's battery men will report at Shibe Park for preliminary drill March 24.

ROAD RAGER DIES; CRASHES INTO POLE

SANTA MONICA, Cal., March 16.—Walter Melcher, driving Hudson special seventeen in the Santa Monica automobile race classic which was wrecked at the Soldiers' Home turn, died at the Los Angeles Hospital, Melcher, just before the race started, had been substituted for A. A. Christenson, driver of the Hudson car. Christenson rode with him as mechanic. He escaped injury.

Melcher had never been over the course in a racing machine until yesterday afternoon, according to officials. The last day of practice Melcher, with several friends, made a tour of the course in a passenger machine at thirty miles an hour. Melcher lived in San Francisco and was a brother of Al Melcher, another entrant in the race. The brother disappeared after the accident and it was first believed he had left the course and rushed to the hospital, but it was later learned his machine was put out of the race by a stone thrown up by another machine.

Cliff Durant, driving a Chevrolet special, won the 250-mile road race. His time was 3 hours 4 minutes and 45 seconds, an average of eighty-one miles an hour. Hearne, in a Chevrolet special, was second, and Leacock in a Newman special was third.

JACK WHITE, BOXER, GETS FIVE YEARS; HIT OFFICER

LEAVENWORTH, Kan., March 16.—Jack White, who claims to be the United States army lightweight champion, arrived here yesterday to serve a five-year term in the United States disciplinary barracks at Fort Leavenworth for striking an officer.

WILL HAVE NO TEAM. Business High School will do little or nothing in field and track sports this season, says Coach Dorman. There are few track candidates and no field upon which to practice.

WESTERN WILL START. Western High School will start regular baseball practice tomorrow afternoon at the school. Six letter men from last season are on hand for the term.

MONTGOMERY IN FORM. Bill Montgomery, Central's crack distance runner, is said to be ready for the scholastic half mile in Baltimore Saturday.

DIAMOND BAGGAGE NOW COSTS MONEY

NEW ORLEANS, March 16.—Things aren't as they used to be in the matter of transporting baseball paraphernalia to the Southern training camps. Officials of the Cleveland ball club learned that when they sent the uniform trunks to this man's town.

Heretofore it has been customary to check the uniform trunks through to the training camp on the individual railroad tickets of the players.

But that day is past and gone. A new ruling which went into effect a short time since resulted in a charge of \$48.21 on the Indians' trunks containing the uniforms, bat bag, and general paraphernalia from Cleveland to New Orleans. It will be the same story on the trip back to the Fourth City.

The weight of the paraphernalia was something like 800 pounds, which means that the charge per hundred from Cleveland to the training camp was about \$6.

The same rule will prevail through the American League season. Thus it will cost "Sunny Jim" Dunn about \$3 cents a hundred from Cleveland to Detroit, something like \$3 a hundred from the Fourth City to Boston and so on down the line.

The allowance of 150 pounds of baggage to an individual ticket still goes but the ball clubs will have to pay the freight on the club trunks and don't you forget it.

YOUNG BRADY IS ANGLING STILL FOR BIG RING BOUT

POCATELLO, Idaho, March 16.—Robb Brady, millionaire son of former United States Senator Brady, is still after the Dempsey-Willard fight.

Brady has wired to Tex Rickard asking him to consent to a long distance talk from New York with Brady and Fred Hulse, once Rickard's partner.

They will ask Rickard under what conditions he will consent to staging the Willard-Dempsey match as a twenty-round fight in Pocatello. Brady is prepared to offer \$100,000 to buy the fight outright or, he said, to raise a cool quarter million if necessary.

GRANEY HAS INFLUENZA; MAY BE LATE TO REPORT

CLEVELAND, March 16.—"Irish Jack" Graneley will not be a member of the Indians' party leaving for New Orleans tomorrow. He is confined to his bed with a serious attack of influenza and tonsillitis. He may not be able to leave for camp until March 25.

Graneley recently returned from his home in St. Thomas, Canada, where he had been nursing six members of the family all sick with influenza. One sister died.

RELEASES RAY FISHER TO REDS FOR PETE SCHNEIDER

CINCINNATI, Ohio, March 16.—Announcement was made today that Ray Fisher, veteran right-hand pitcher of the New York Americans, has been traded to the Cincinnati Reds for Pitcher Pete Schneider of the local club.

JOHN RENOE IS BACK. Johnny Renoe, Georgetown's quartermaster of last year, is back. Johnny is pounds overweight. He looks fit, but fat.

WHITE SOX DROP JORDAN. CHICAGO, March 16.—Ted Jordan, a recruit first baseman, was released last night by the Chicago Americans to the Minneapolis club of the American Association.

PRACTICE WAS OFF. Little or no baseball practice was held yesterday by either the schools or colleges on account of bad weather. Some of the battery candidates worked indoors.

MAY OPEN MARCH 26. Central may open up his baseball season with the Georgetown Preps on March 26.

BOEHLING AND ENGEL ON INDIANS' HURLING STAFF

By ED BANG.

CLEVELAND, March 16.—Stanley Coveleskie, Jim Bagby, Guy Morton, Ed Klepper, Fred Coumbe, Otis Lambeth, Elmer Myers, Chester Torkelson, Clark Dickerson, Jess Petty, Joe Engel, Johnny Enmann, George Uhle, and Joe Boehling. That's the list of names that goes to make up the Cleveland club's pitching staff at the present time, fans, fourteen in all, but you can bet your last cent that when the season is under way that it will be pruned to a considerable extent.

We're figuring that not all of the fourteen will see training service at New Orleans. Possibly only twelve of the number will condition at Pelicanon, and if such is the case don't be surprised if the total to be carried during the regular American League season is pruned one-third, or down to eight.

It's going to be some job for Manager Lee Fohl to separate the wheat from chaff, especially if the twirlers now overseas, namely, Klepper, Lambeth, Myers, Dickerson, and Petty, return to God's country in time to take a whirl at the training game at New Orleans. It's not a certainty that all of the other nine pitchers will put in an appearance down South, but most of them can be depended upon to be on the job in an effort to show.

He Steps at Two. If you asked Lee Fohl which of the fourteen twirlers mentioned are fixtures for the coming campaign he probably would stop short after mentioning Coveleskie and Bagby, although probably in his heart he feels that Morton, Coumbe, Klepper, and Myers are sure bets along with his right and left pitching bowlers.

That would make a total of six, with two places open for the other eight pitchers to fight for, providing all of them showed up and also figuring that the Indians will worry along with eight twirlers. Of course, should this number be augmented, that is, should be decided to carry more than eight slabs, then the other eight would have a better chance to land.

There are three southpaws in the bunch, Coumbe, Boehling, and Petty. The little offside would have the edge on the other two for the simple reason that he has been put to the test. Boehling never showed much as a member of the Indians, while Petty would be an uncertain quantity even if the Cleveland club officials would know where to locate him, which they don't, as nothing has been heard from him since he entered the army.

While Gets a Trial. George Uhle, the local semipro twirler who hurried the Standard Parts team to the world's semipro championship last season, will be given just as much opportunity to show his wares and stick with the team as Torkelson, Dickerson, Engel, Lambeth or Enmann. Manager Fohl is of the opinion that he has a diamond in the rough in Uhle and will nurse him along.

Truth be told, it wouldn't occasion any great surprise if Uhle was the pinch member of the Indians' pitching staff if that number is carried or even the eighth in the event it is decided to stick to eight twirlers.

Manager Fohl says the fight for places will be an open one. If all fourteen show up each and every one of the remaining twelve will receive the same consideration at his hands as Coveleskie and Bagby, regarded as his best slab bats.

MIDDIES AGAIN WINNERS IN WATER AND FENCING. ANNAPOLIS, Md., March 16.—The Midshipmen defeated Princeton in a dual gymnastic meet yesterday, 46½ to 7½. The winners made a clean sweep in four of the six events. Princeton counted only in club swimming and the side horse. The Middies also defeated Columbia at fencing, the score with fells being 7 to 2, and with the sabers, 4 to 0.

McNAMARA IN SHAPE. Walter McNamara, Tech's track captain of last year, is in good shape. He is a freshman at Georgetown this year and will represent the Blue and Gray on Saturday night.

WILL MISS TWO RUNNERS. Georgetown will miss Bill Gates and Dorsey Griffith this winter. Both athletes cracked heavily for the Blue and Gray last year.

They Would Make a Fine Combination

It's too bad Harry Coveleskie, the Tigers' Polish southpaw, has been released to Little Rock, for with him on the club some announcer next summer might have had to shout:

"For Detroit-Coveleskie and Wojcieszowski."

Yep, Hughie Jennings will give Wojcieszowski a trial at Macon, but not under that name. No sir-ree, he's been named Murphy for the sake of the baseball writers, who went Polshevik the moment they lapped that monicker.

Bill James dug up Woj-Murphy on his army team last summer.

BUCK WEAVER SAYS HE WON'T SIGN UP

CHICAGO, March 16.—With getaway day booked for next Friday, the White Sox have yet to sign up Buck Weaver, "Swede" Risberg and Fred McMullin, all three necessary infield cogs. Weaver wants more money than Charlie Comiskey is willing to offer. Risberg and McMullin want to play ball on the Pacific Coast.

Weaver sends word from Beloit, Wis., where he is employed, that he is serious in his hold-out.

"I am absolutely through with the club," says Weaver. "If Comiskey doesn't come through, I took his word a year ago that baseball affairs were unsettled, agreeing to work without a raise. That I was on the level is proved by the fact that last season was my best in the big leagues. And now I'm going to get what I deserve or stay here, playing semi-pro ball on the side while learning mechanics. I'm not kidding the least little bit about this, either."

Nothing has been heard from Risberg or McMullin since they asked to be released to coast league clubs.

HORNING LOANS

On Diamonds, Watches, and Jewelry (South of Highway Bridge) BUSINESS TRANSACTIONS EXCLUDED. Take care at 12th and Pennsylvania ave. for south end of Highway Bridge. One car ticket each way.